

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
YOSHITAKA NAGAO, ET AL.) : Examiner: Unassigned
Application Based on) : Group Art Unit: Unassigned
JP 2000-101916, JP 2000-101917, :
2000-101918 and JP 2001-100013)
: Filed: Herewith)
: For: FACING MATERIAL,)
FABRICATING METHOD :
THEREOF, SOLAR CELL)
MODULE, MANUFACTURING :
METHOD THEREOF,)
INSTALLING METHOD :
THEREOF, AND)
PHOTOVOLTAIC :
POWER-GENERATING)
APPARATUS : April 2, 2001

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits of the
above-identified application, please amend the application as
follows.

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 74 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of claim 74, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

74. (Amended) A solar cell module manufacturing apparatus for manufacturing a solar cell module, said solar cell module comprising a photovoltaic element and a covering means arranged on a non-light-receiving face side of the photovoltaic element and composed of a flame resistive fiber, by a manufacturing method comprising the steps of:

providing a flame resistive layer on a surface of the non-light-receiving face side of said solar cell module; and

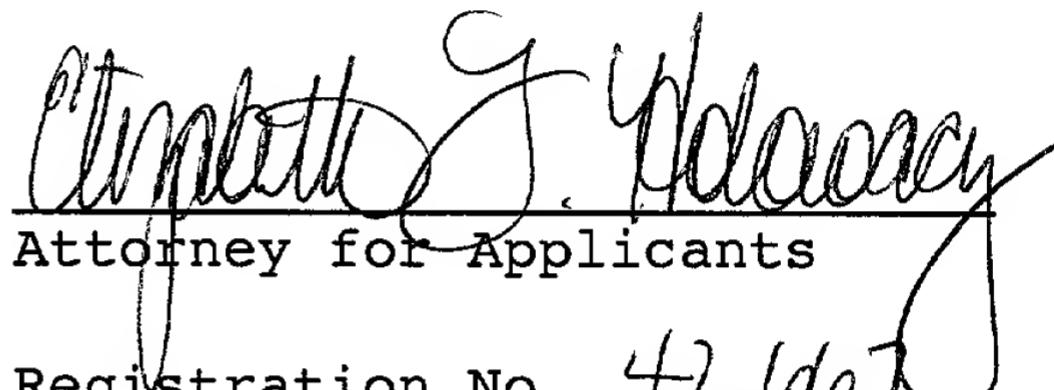
providing a water-absorption preventing layer on the surface of the flame resistive layer.

Remarks

The claims are 1-94, with claims 1, 30, 52, 74, 78 and 87-90 being independent. Claim 74 has been amended to be in independent form. Consideration of the present claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

74. (Amended) A solar cell module manufacturing apparatus for manufacturing [the] a solar cell module, [according to claim 30] said solar cell module comprising a photovoltaic element and a covering means arranged on a non-light-receiving face side of the photovoltaic element and composed of a flame resistive fiber, by [the] a manufacturing method [according to claim 52] comprising the steps of:

providing a flame resistive layer on a surface of the non-light-receiving face side of said solar cell module; and
providing a water-absorption preventing layer on the surface of the flame resistive layer.

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